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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Andrew Thomas, et al.	Group Art No.:	2641
		Examiner:	Not Yet Assigned
Application No:	10/005,379	Re:	**EXCESS CLAIM FORM**
Filed:	December 4, 2001	Our Ref:	B-4412/619362-3
For:	"SOUND LINKS	Date:	April 23, 2002

Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.

____ Small entity status of this application under 37 CFR 1.9 and 1.27 has been established by a verified statement previously submitted.

____ A verified statement to establish small entity status under 37 CFR 1.9 and 1.27 is enclosed.

____ No additional fee is required.

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

(Col. 1)		(Col. 2)	(Col. 3) Small Entity	Small Entity	Other than
Claims retaining after amendment		Highest No. Previously Paid For	Present Extra	Rate Addit. Fee	Rate Addit. Fee
Total 39	* Minus	** 27	= 12	X 9 = $ ------	X 18 = $ 216.00
Indep. 5	* Minus	*** 3	= 0	X 40 = $ ------	X 80 = $ 000.00
First Presentation of Multiple Dep. Claims				+135 = $ ------	+270 = $ ------

TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE $ 216.00 .

____ Please charge my Deposit Account No. 12-0415 in the amount of $_____. A duplicate of this sheet is attached.

_X_ A check in the amount of $216.00 is attached.

_X_ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 12-0415. A duplicate of this sheet is attached.

_X_ Any filing fees under 37 CFR 1.16 for the presentation of extra claims.

_X_ Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C., 20231 on:

April 23, 2002
(Date of Deposit)

Richard P. Berg
(Name of Applicant, Assignee or Registered Representative)

(Signature)

April 23, 2002

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Andrew Thomas, et al.	)	Group Art No.:	2641
Application No:	10/005,379	)	Examiner:	Not Yet Assigned
Filed:	December 4, 2001	)	Re:	Preliminary amendment
For:	"SOUND LINKS	)	Our Ref:	619362-3/B4412
		)	Date:	April 23, 2002

RECEIVED MAY 08 2002 Technology Center 2600

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified Application, kindly amend the above-identified Application as follows:

1. A method of accessing a network-connected content site comprising the following steps carried out at a network browser :

(a) receiving a sound-sequence signal representing a sound sequence with sound features that encode a character sequence according to a predetermined scheme, the character sequence comprising two groups of characters, one of which is a site code intended to be translated to a content-site URI by a remote service system and the other of which serves to indicate that the said one group is a said site code;

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(b) decoding the received sound-sequence signal to derive a said character sequence;

(c) detecting said two groups of characters in the character sequence with detection of said other group being taken as indicating that the site code formed by said one group is to be sent to the service system for translation; and

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(d) sending the site code to the service system, receiving back the corresponding content-site URI, and using it to access the content site.

5. A method according to claim 4, wherein the said other group of characters comprises the URI of the service system.

6. A method according to claim 5, wherein the URI of the service system is a URL

7. A method according to claim 4, wherein the nature of the sound features and of the predetermined encoding scheme is such that a sound sequence of a musical character represents said one group of characters.

8. A method according to claim 4, wherein the nature of the sound features and of the predetermined encoding scheme is such that a sound sequence of a musical character represents said other group of characters.

9. A method according to claim 1, wherein in step (b) said sound features are decoded into corresponding sound codewords which are then mapped to characters.

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein the sound features comprise one of:

- fixed-frequency tones or tone combinations;
- occurrence of maximum sound output power in predetermined frequency bands;
- changes in output frequency;
- different modulation frequencies of one or more tones.

11. A method according to claim 1, wherein the steps of the method are carried out by a voice browser.

12. A method according to claim 1, including the further step of caching the correspondence of site code to site URI, step (c) involving checking this cache before contacting the service system.

13. A method according to claim 1, wherein the content site URI is a URL.

14. Browser apparatus for accessing network-connected content sites, the apparatus comprising:

- first means for receiving a sound-sequence signal representing a sound sequence with sound features that encode a character sequence according to a predetermined scheme, the character sequence comprising two groups of characters one of which is a site code intended to be translated to a content site URI by a service system and the other of which serves to indicate that the said one group is a said site code;
- second means for decoding the received sound-sequence signal to derive a character sequence;
- third means operative to detect said two groups of characters in the character sequence with detection of said other group being taken as indicating that the site code formed by said one group is to be sent to the remote service system for translation;
- fourth means for sending the site code to the service system and receiving back the corresponding content site URI; and
- fifth means operative to use the content-site URI received from the service system to access the content site.

18. Apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the said other group of characters comprises the RI of the service system, the third means being operative to take this URI and use it to contact the service system.

19. Apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the URI of the service system is a URL

22. Apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the second means comprises means for decoding said sound features into corresponding sound codewords and means for mapping these codewords to characters.

23. Apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the sound features comprise one of:

- fixed-frequency tones or tone combinations;
- occurrence of maximum sound output power in predetermined frequency bands;
- changes in output frequency;
- different modulation frequencies of one or more tones.

24. Apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the apparatus is a voice browser.

25. Apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising a cache for caching previously determined correspondences between site codes and site URIs, the third means being operative, in response to the presence of a site code in the received sound sequence, to check the cache and only send the site code to the service system where the cache does not hold a site-code to URI correspondence for that site code.

26. Apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the content site URI is a URL.

27. Apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising a microphone for receiving the sound sequence and providing a corresponding said sound-sequence signal to said means for receiving.

Please add the following new claims:

28. A method according to claim 1, wherein the steps of the method are carried out by end-user equipment.